

Consideration of the dedication of the Glacial Esker Nature Preserve in Noble County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 731.56 acre area within Chain O Lakes State Park in Noble County. There are two units within the proposed nature preserve, the Glacial Esker Unit in the eastern portion of the park, and the Big Woods Unit in the western portion of the park. This nature preserve primarily protects glacial features and the associated communities, including an esker, which is a long winding ridge of stratified sand and gravel of peculiarly uniform shape that was deposited under a glacier. There was a tunnel conducting the meltwater out of the glacier and as the meltwater flow waned it deposited the esker, considered the best example of the geological feature in the state.

This Nature Preserve consists of topography that is glacial containing flat-bottom lowlands occupied by channels that were cut by glacial meltwater interconnecting a series of kettle lakes by shallow wetlands, creeks, and floodplain forests with scattered 'Erratics'. Those are rocks that were carried by the glacier from its parent source and dropped 'erratically'. The esker itself provides an area for upland forests, a ridge top and ravines. The Nature Preserve also contains several lakes, runs along several lakeshores, and the associated emergent and submersed wetland communities. All the described community types along with their expected component flora and fauna contain many species that are area-sensitive wetland and forest interior plants and animals dependent upon large, unfragmented wetland and forest ecosystems.

Noteworthy animal species found in this Nature Preserve include:

The site is utilized as nesting habitat by the Henslow's sparrow, a State Endangered birds, the Brown creeper, the Hooded, Cerulean and Prothonotary Warbler. It's also home to several hawks, the Least bittern, Barn owl, and Black-crowned Night heron.

Noteworthy animals found in this Nature Preserve include the State Special Concern species, the Blue-spotted salamander and the Western-ribbon snake. The State Endangered Blanding's Turtle also makes a home in this preserve.

This tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs.

The Division of Nature Preserves and the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs recommend dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

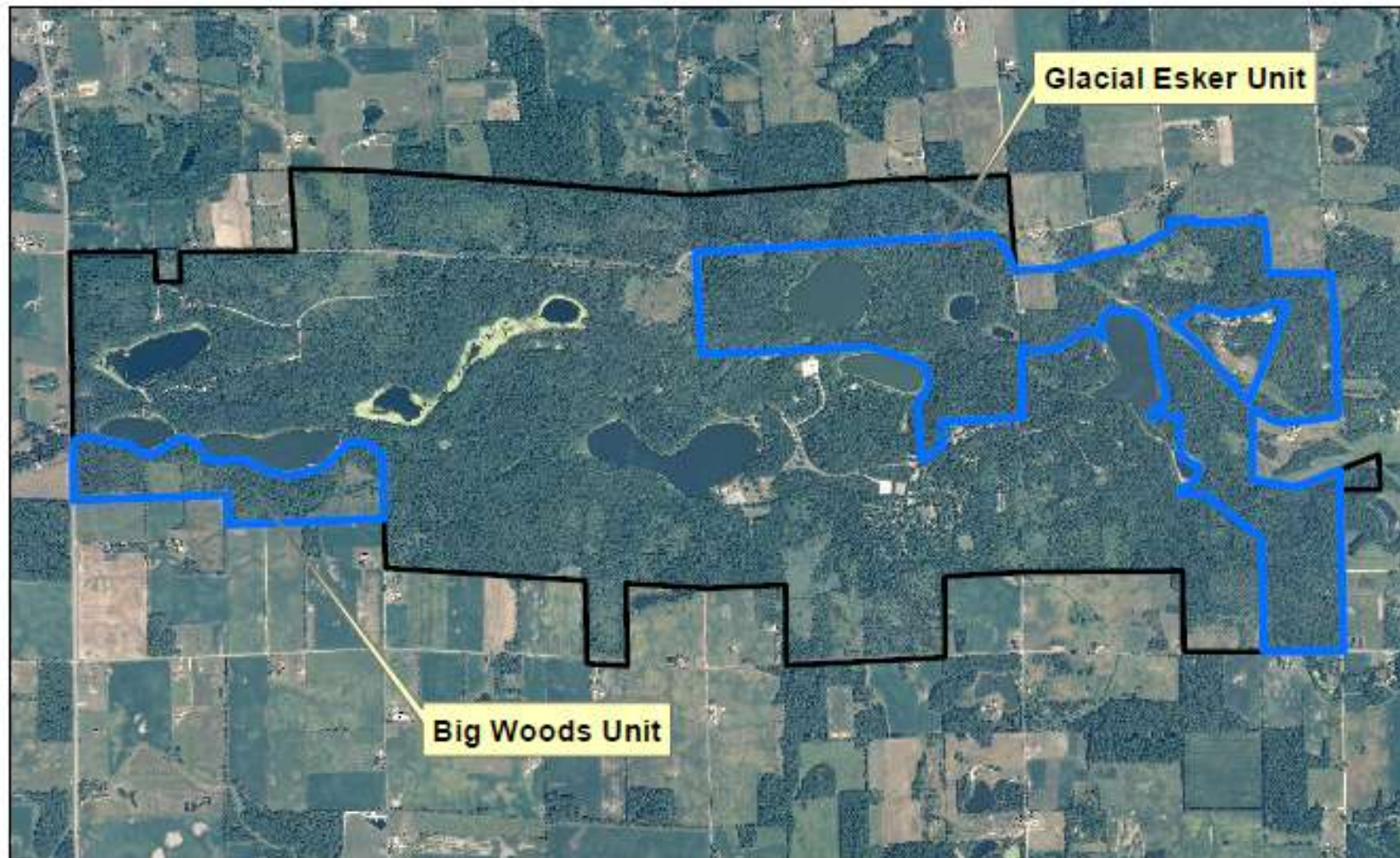
Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Glacial Esker Nature Preserve


County: Noble
Size: 731.56 acres

Exhibit A

USGS Map: Merriam and Ege
Ownership: State Parks and Reservoirs



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 01.18.2012

 Chain O' Lakes State Park
 Glacial Esker Nature Preserve

0  1 Miles

